

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00143 282350Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 TRSE-00 /062 W
-----282355Z 099138 /62

O 282252Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8527
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MONTREAL 143

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: PRESS QUOTES STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, PROVINCIAL
MINISTER RE U.S. - QUEBEC RELATIONS

1. PRINCIPAL ENGLISH, FRENCH DAILIES MONTREAL EXTENSIVELY
COVER QUEBEC INDUSTRY, COMMERCE MINISTER RODRIQUE TREMBLAY'S
STATEMENTS NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SEMINAR JAN. 27,
WITH BOTH ENGLISH AND ONE FRENCH DAILY CONTRASTING TREMBLAY
ASSERTION U.S. GOVERNMENT SYMPATHETIC QUEBEC AUTONOMY TO
DIRECTOR OFFICE OF CANADIAN AFFAIRS JOHN ROUSE'S MAINTENANCE
U.S. NON-INVOLVEMENT.

2. MOST EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN MONTREAL STAR, WHICH LEADS PAGE
ONE CLAUDE ARPIN BYLINER WITH: "ONLY THE 'POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS
CONFRONTATION' BETWEEN QUEBEC AND CANADA COULD DRAW THE UNITED
STATES INTO THE CURRENT DEBATE ON QUEBEC INDEPENDENCE, ACCORDING
TO A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL."

3. ROUSE IS PARAPHRASED AS SAYING "WASHINGTON'S POLICY DECISION
IS TO STAY OUT OF THE DEBATE UNLESS IT TURNS INTO AN ARMED
CONFLICT."

4. ROUSE ALSO REPORTEDLY RESPONDED AUDIENCE QUESTION "THAT THE
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UNITED STATES WOULD ONLY BE DRAWN INTO THE DEBATE ON INDEPENDENCE
IN THE EVENT OF 'SERIOUS CONFRONTATION'."

5. ACCORDING TO PAPER, ROUSE TOLD STAR REPORTER "THAT WASHING-
TON WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHICH OF THE TWO SIDES TO BACK IF EITHER
SIDE REQUESTED INTERVENTION."

6. STAR, THE GAZETTE, AND LA PRESSE ALL REPORT ROUSE EMPHASIZED "OTTAWA STILL REPRESENTS CANADA IN WASHINGTON" AND "IT IS UP TO CANADIANS TO SOLVE INTERNAL PROBLEMS."

7. LA PRESSE LEADS ITS STORY WITH SUMMATION THAT U.S. DOES NOT INTEND INTERFERE CANADIAN AFFAIRS. GAZETTE INTERLACES ROUSE AND TREMBLAY STATEMENTS TO SUPPORT LEAD: "AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT LAST NIGHT BRUSHED OFF A QUEBEC CABINET MINISTER'S ASSERTION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SYMPATHETIC TO QUEBEC AUTONOMY."

8. GAZETTE STORY, UNDER CANADIAN PRESS-SPECIAL LOGOTYPE, ADDS: "BUT THE FACT THAT ROUSE DID PUBLICLY EXPRESS A VIEW WAS SEEN BY SEMINAR OBSERVERS AS A U.S. ENDORSEMENT OF CANADIAN UNITY."

9. OF FOUR MAJORS, LE DEVOIR ALONE DOES NOT REFER TO U.S. OFFICIAL IN FRENCH VERSION CANADIAN PRESS COVERAGE TREMBLAY SPEECH.

10. LE DEVOIR ALSO DOES NOT MENTION TREMBLAY QUOTES SEEN IN OTHER THREE THAT (PRESS PARAPHRASING) "PARTI QUEBECOIS HAS 'GOOD CONTACTS IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT' "AND THAT TREMBLAY BELIEVED "U.S. GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY THE STAFF OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF QUEBEC AUTONOMY."

11. LE DEVOIR STICKS WITH TREMBLAY THEME POLITICAL FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR QUEBEC'S UNDERDEVELOPED ECONOMY, E.G. "THERE IS A CANADIAN COMMON MARKET THAT TENDS TO CONCENTRATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN ONTARIO," AND THERE IS AN ECONOMIC DICHOTOMY IN QUEBEC: LARGE ENTERPRISES FOR THE ANGLOPHONES, SMALL AND MEDIUM UNCLASSIFIED

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SIZE FOR THE FRANCOPHONES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, INDEPENDENCE, PRESS COMMENTS
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Disposition Comment:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3677678
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS QUOTES STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, PROVINCIAL MINISTER RE U.S. - QUEBEC RELATIONS
TAGS: PINT, CA, US, (TREMBLAY, RODRIQUE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f8efe4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009